

French class honors Goldman with plaque

BY EMILY GRANNIS
EDITOR IN CHIEF

"As though a rose should shut, and be a bud again."

This quotation from John Keats' "The Eve of St. Agnes," is one message selected by Suzanne Gyurgyik's AP French V class for a plaque in memory of Jenny Goldman.

Goldman, who was a junior, died Jan. 10, 2004, when the driver of a car she was riding in lost control and the vehicle hit a tree.

Four other students were injured in the Shaker Boulevard crash.

Gyurgyik's class began planning something for Goldman after the accident.

"When Jenny died, we were so stunned that we did not know what to say but we knew we had to do something," Gyurgyik

wrote in an email interview.

The class plans to place the plaque, which they designed in hopes that it would reflect Goldman's character, in the hallway across from the main office.



Goldman

"We kept on thinking of the best way to honor her and decided a mere brown, wooden plaque was not what Jenny was about," Gyurgyik said.

"We thought etched glass would be more like her and decided on a purple background because it was the one color Jenny recognized and liked. She was color blind."

The plaque emphasizes Goldman's passion for languages and nature, with phrases in French, German, Japanese, Russian and English. The French "For you my love," "nature lover" and "We love you Jenny. Goodbye," appear on the plaque.

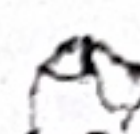
Seniors Charles Inniss and Carrie Smith were close friends of Goldman's and helped to design the plaque, which will be installed during a ceremony when complete.

"She was in my French class last year," Inniss said, explaining how the class became involved in the project.

Last May, Student Council planted a tree outside the Egress to honor Goldman, and they ordered the plaque to remember her this year.

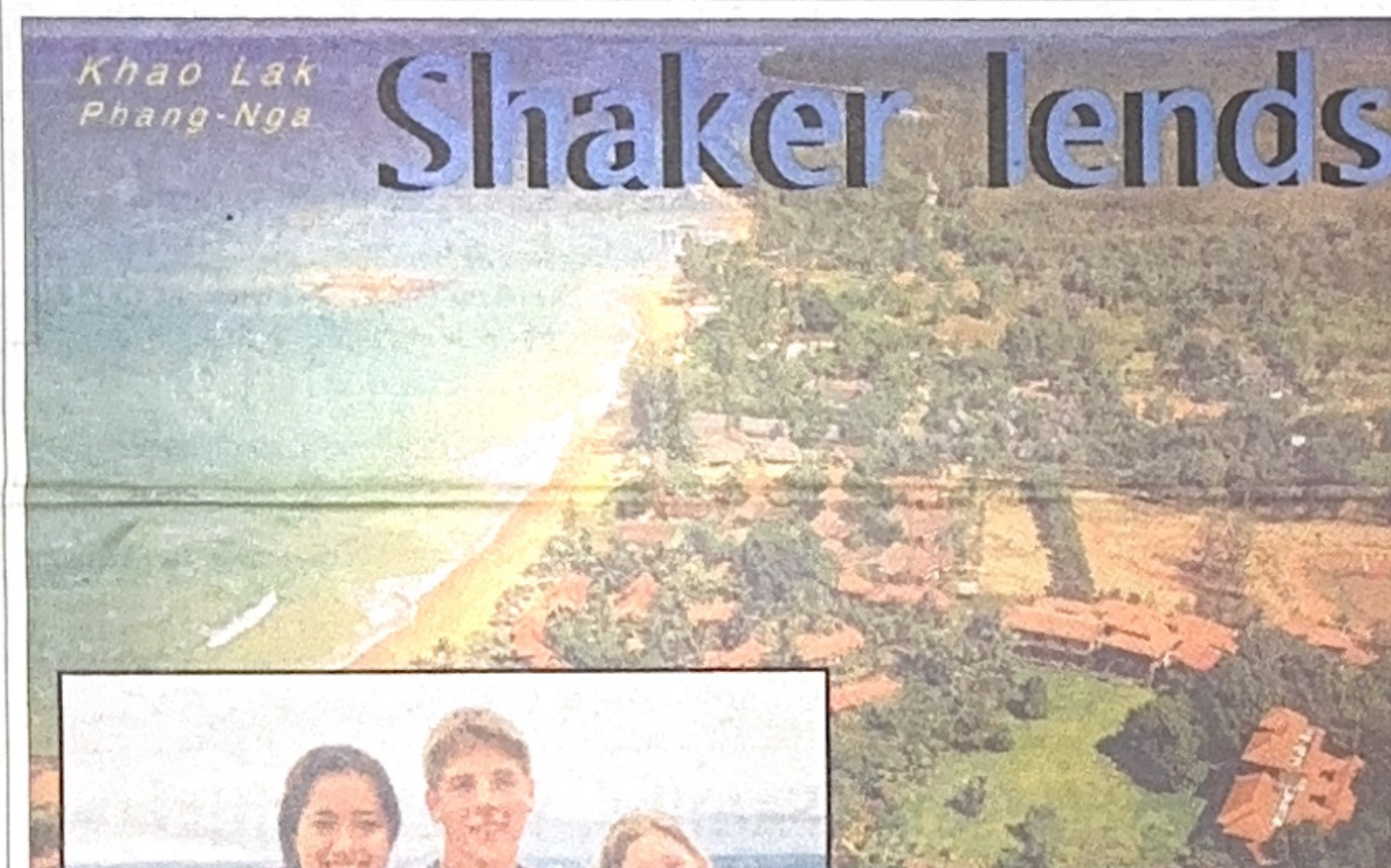
Ann Pearson, Goldman's mother, said the family is pleased that people are remembering Goldman, yet for the family this has been "a rocky year."

"I think she would have been happy but amused that the school is honoring her," Pearson said. She added that she hopes people will remember Goldman's openness.



Courtesy of Carrie Smith

SENIOR CARRIE SMITH designed this rose for a plaque honoring Jenny Goldman. Goldman's family established the Jenny Goldman Award for Excellence in Languages in her memory and created a fund at the Nature Center, which is using it to pilot a program with East Cleveland schools this year.



Khao Lak
Phang-Nga

Shaker lends

helping hand

• Fund-raising campaign aids former exchange student

BY ADAM WEINSTEIN
NEWS EDITOR

Shaker students raised \$2,709 for thousands of strangers oceans away, and for one girl many knew well.

The fundraiser was established to help victims of the tsunami caused by an earthquake that registered 9.0 on the Richter scale. The massive wall of water hit the coasts of southeast Asia Dec. 26, 2004, drowning entire villages and taking approximately 212,600 lives.

In Shaker, this tragedy seemed foreign. However, for one girl who called Shaker home for a year, the disaster truly hit home, engulfing it under the waves.

Her full name is Narisara Kaveerjun, but those close to her know her as "Sara." She at-

tended Shaker as an exchange student from Thailand during the 2001-2002 school year. The Arian family, who hosted her, considers her part of their family.

"She is a kind, respectful, gentle young woman — a very serious student, but also open to new experiences," her host father Keith Arian said.

Kaveerjun is now 21. Her mother and stepfather owned a resort on the beaches of Khao Lak, just north of Phuket, the area of Thailand that suffered the worst damage. At the time the tsunami hit, Kaveerjun was majoring in photojournalism at a college near Bangkok.

Kaveerjun's host sister, sophomore Suzanne Arian, recalls being worried when she heard of the devastation in Thailand.

"It was the holiday season, so we thought she might be working at

SEE TSUNAMI PAGE 2



Kaveerjun poses with her host siblings, Peter and Suzanne Arian, visiting the Grand Canyon. Kaveerjun was an exchange student during the 2001-2002 school year. At right, senior Yotam Guggenheim collects donations for Kaveerjun and the Red Cross. AFS raised a total of \$2,709.

PHOTOS COURTESY OF KEITH AND LESLYE ARIAN
A POSTCARD OF Narisara Kaveerjun's home in Phang-Nga, Thailand. The tsunami destroyed the coast.



Hilry Hazelwood • THE SHAKERITE

SpongeBob soaks up controversy

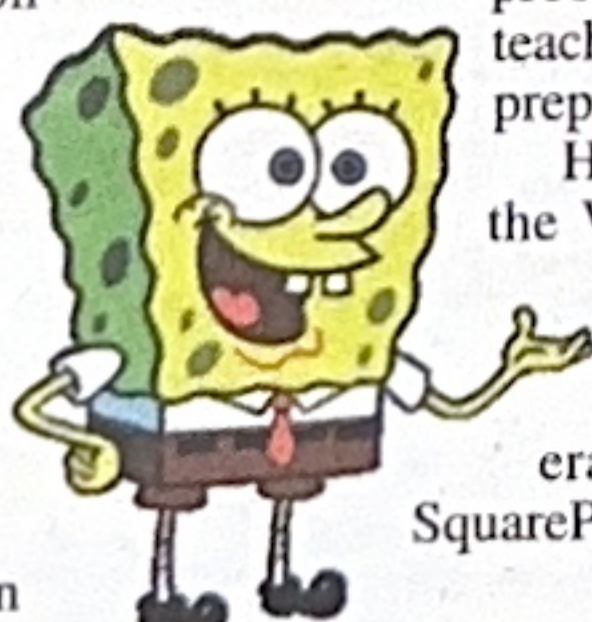
BY JASON PLAUTZ
CENTERPIECE EDITOR

"Does anybody here know SpongeBob?" The question seemed hardly appropriate for a black-tie affair after President Bush's inauguration. However, the allegation that followed seemed inappropriate for any occasion: SpongeBob SquarePants is (gasp) gay!

For those who don't know, ANALYSIS SquarePants is the porous protagonist in the Nickelodeon cartoon show bearing his name.

James C. Dobson, founder of Focus on the Family, a Christian organization that promotes family connections, made the allegation in response to what he termed a "pro-homosexual video" produced by the We Are Family Foundation (yes, like the song).

The video features more than



100 children's characters, including SquarePants, performing the disco hit in what the foundation calls "an unprecedented music video" to promote tolerance. The video, which is being distributed to schools across the nation, preaches acceptance of all people but makes no reference to sexuality.

Bernice Stokes, executive director of elementary education for the district, said Shaker hasn't been contacted about the video and probably wouldn't have shown it, because teachers are focusing on standardized test preparation.

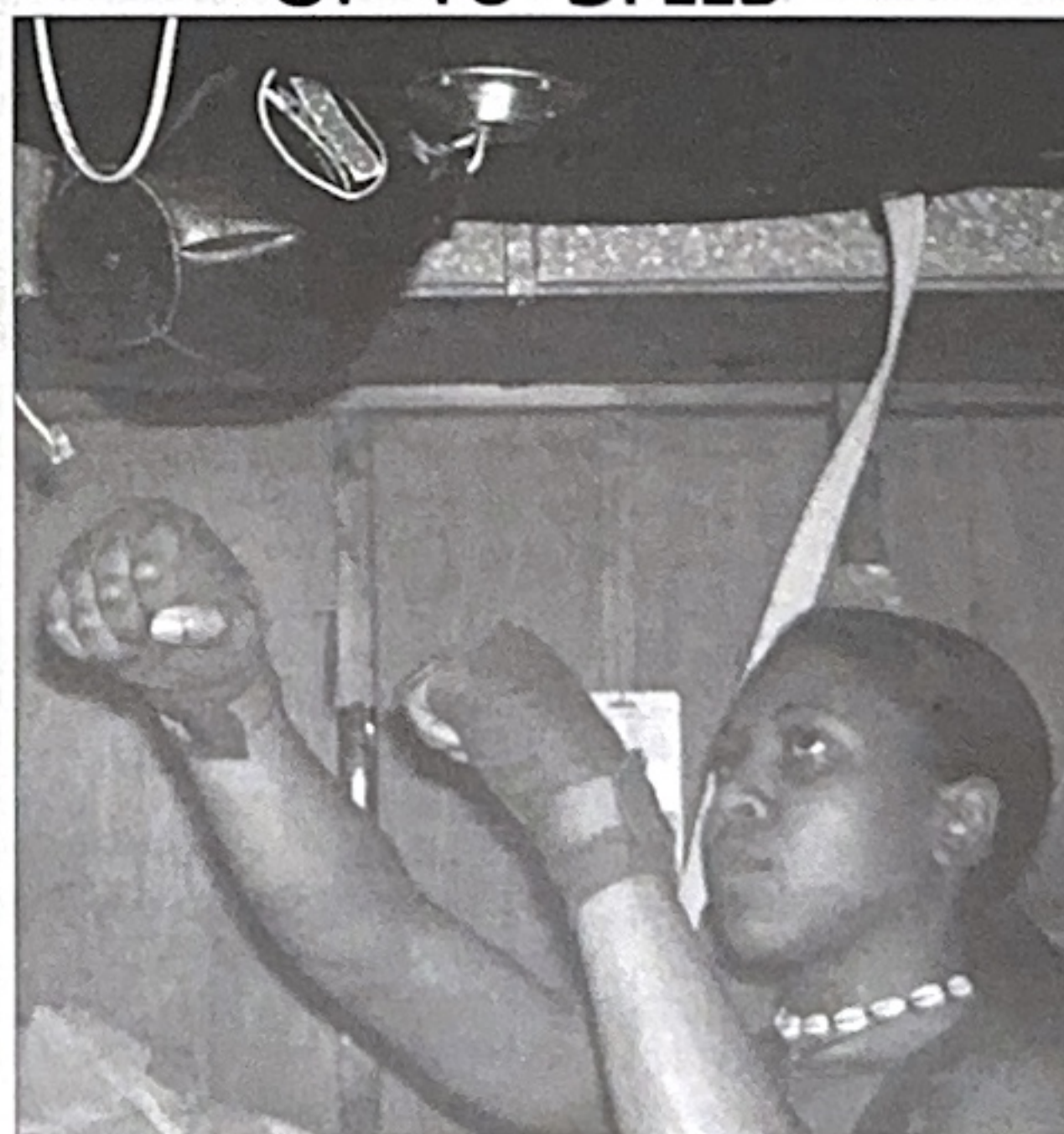
However, some confusion arises from the We Are Family Foundation website.

The foundation borrows a pledge from the Southern Poverty Law Center's National Campaign for Tolerance that references sexual identity.

SquarePants is apparently also an icon for

SEE SPONGEBOB PAGE 2

UP TO SPEED



SENIOR JESSICA FAIN punches the speed bag during a boxing workout. This is one of several exercises Fain does while practicing six times a week at the Cleveland Boxing Academy.

SPORTS •
OUT OF
BOUNDS
• PAGE 8

Courtesy of Jessica Fain

Egress gets a face lift

The recent addition of 20 new cafeteria tables to the Egress and 120 chairs from storage has turned the Egress into a mini-cafeteria. The tables, which cost the district \$4,580, are longer than the old versions, so space between tables is tight. Head cus-



todian Tim Bates said staff member's reaction has been positive because more Egress seating means fewer students in the hallways during lunch.

Sophomore Henry Distad, however, does not approve of the change.

"It's more organized, but there are too many tables," he said.

Tsunami claims family of former student

• High school raises \$2,709 for her and other victims of the tsunami disaster

FROM TSUNAMI PAGE 1

the resort," Suzanne said.

Keith also prepared himself for the worst.

"We knew that her parents had a resort on the coast. I said to my wife, 'This probably isn't good,'" he said.

A few days passed without word from Kaveerjun, and the Arian family grew worried. Then a Kaveerjun family

“She had great affection for Shaker Heights. When we told her that the Shaker community was raising funds for her, she seemed surprised and relieved.”

Keith Arian
Kaveerjun's host father

friend who taught English at the Thai boarding school she attended notified the Ariens that she had been at college and was unharmed. Her mother, two aunts and some cousins, however, perished in the waves. The family resort was destroyed.

"When I found out, I really felt bad for her," Suzanne said.

Kaveerjun's brother, her only sibling, had rented out his bungalow at the resort because of the busy season, and was not there when the tsunami hit.

The Ariens were able to speak to Kaveerjun on the phone a few weeks ago. At the time, she and her grandparents were living in a tent.

"She sounded so sad in her voice, sad and at times overwhelmed at what she faced," Keith said.

With the loss of the family business, Kaveerjun and her surviving relatives face an uncertain

financial future. Kaveerjun also had to say goodbye to her American stepfather, who returned to the United States to be with family. Keith feels Kaveerjun is handling her new responsibilities well.

"She's very focused; she has a lot of clear thinking. Her mother's role in the family was a matriarch, and now that her mother is gone, they come to her," he said.

To aid Kaveerjun and other tsunami victims, Shaker's

AFS/ISO Club, which helps exchange students, put together the fundraiser that occurred before finals. Senior Yotam Guggenheim, who helps exchange students adjust to Shaker, was one of 24 volunteers who collected money for the fundraising operation. Bernadette Thoennes, Spanish teacher and AFS/ISO Club adviser, said \$2,709 was raised. The money will be divided equally between Kaveerjun and the Red Cross.

"We've been going around with empty jars and asking people to donate. When I was going around the cafeteria, almost every student asked gave money," Guggenheim said.

Guggenheim thinks many people donated because Kaveerjun reminded people that tragedy is never far away.

"If it could happen to her, it could happen to us, too," he said.

Keith said Kaveerjun was grateful to hear of the fundraising effort for her and for other victims.

"She had great affection for Shaker Heights. When we told her that the Shaker community was raising funds for her, she seemed surprised and relieved," Keith said.

The Shakerite tried to contact Kaveerjun via e-mail, but received no response as of press time.



Courtesy of Keith and Leslye Arian

NARISARA KAVEERJUN STANDS with three of her classmates from the boarding high school she attended in Thailand. They are wearing traditional Thai dress and holding lotus leaves and flowers. Narisara was away at college near Bangkok when the tsunami hit, but she lost her mother, two aunts and some cousins.

According to Keith, Kaveerjun plans to share her portion of the money raised with the employees of her family's resort.

Those who are close to her think Kaveerjun will survive this tragedy.

"I think in the short term she'll probably struggle somewhat, but she is an incredible person. I think people have to move on, and she will," Keith said.

Shaker loses friend, artist

By EMILY GRANNIS
EDITOR IN CHIEF

Friends and teachers of Jake David "Dave" Breland remember his creativity and peaceful attitude. Breland died Jan. 12 at age 17.

"Dave was never content with the world as it was given to him. He always looked to remold it, change it to his satisfaction," senior David Frisof said at Breland's memorial service Jan. 19. "He became an artist, a composer, a writer; his capacity to create was limitless. His animations, his comic strips, his music, his essays, were all completely original and completely Dave."

Frisof and seniors Drew Anderson and Patrick Murphy, all pallbearers at the service, became close to Breland during kindergarten at Onaway.

"He would come over and we used to take wood and he taught me to carve from it," Anderson said. "He was always full of ideas."

Breland developed his own, sometimes unsuccessful versions of computer programs.

"He was always too eager to tinker with electronics. Drew and I learned that the hard way, and soon after were quick to guard our computers from Dave's 'adjustments,'" Frisof said. "Of course he quickly learned from his mistakes, and would promise profusely that his new modification would not crash our computers, but we were wary just the same."

Murphy has similar memories.

"He liked tinkering with things," Murphy said. "He was a goofy guy, kind of funny."

Breland's friends emphasized his peaceful nature. Frisof recalled instances where he and Anderson wanted Breland to fight someone, but Breland always refused.



Breland

"Bright Futures"

By Jake Breland

A child's mind is bright and new, so why must we insist
To taint its curiosity with problems that persist.
Our textbooks filled with past events 'bout conquest,
hate and war
It doesn't stop, another bloody chapter adds on more.
This world we live in craves attention, so why must we
hide away the parts
That we don't like from public eyes?
People try to get their points across, yet others just
don't listen
To the plights of those that just want peace to live the
life they're livin'.

"He never wished anyone harm, he never said an unkind word," Frisof said. "Violence was simply a part of this world that Dave did not want in his."

Junior Andre Smith met the Brelands when his family moved here nine years ago. On the day of Breland's memorial service, Smith left his science final early to serve as a pallbearer.

"I'd rather be there, at the church," he said.

Music teacher Kenneth LeeGrand met Breland when he was a member of the middle school jazz band. LeeGrand spoke at the service and performed "Yes, Jesus Loves Me."

"We had a very good relationship. While [Breland] was at the high school, I spent a lot of time talking to him, helping him," he said.

"Music kids are special kids," LeeGrand said. "When this kid would smile it was special."

Dr. Lynne Shields, special education department chairwoman at the high school, said she remembered Jake's love for art and poetry most.

"When I'd go in to work with him, we'd talk about his art - how maybe he'd like to do something like that with his career," Shields said. "He made a big impact on a lot of people."

Breland's sisters, Nikki ('90), Lauren ('97) and Mallory ('02) are Shaker graduates and his mother teaches kindergarten at Mercer School. Contributions may be made to the Jake David Breland, Jr. Music Scholarship Fund, Shaker Schools Foundation, 15600 Parkland Drive, Shaker Heights, OH 44120.

'We are Family' video criticized

FROM SPONGEBOB PAGE 1
gay men. He's flamboyant, watches a show called "The Adventures of Mermaid Man and Barnacle Boy" and holds hands with his friend Patrick, a starfish.

Dan Martinsen, a spokesman for Nickelodeon, publicly dismissed the charges. "It's a sponge, for crying out loud. He has no sexuality."

Sophomore Michael Bohl admits to having seen every episode at least twice. He called the charges "ridiculous," adding "little kids don't think about what's behind the cartoon."

Senior Claudia Lerner, a member of the Gay-Straight Alliance, also refuted the accusations, calling them "a

ridiculous excuse to highlight homosexuality."

Sophomore Tarresha Poindexter, member of Students for God, said since it's a cartoon it isn't a big deal.

Further investigation of the Nickelodeon website revealed more surprises. SquarePants is going steady with Sandy Cheeks, a squirrel living in an oxygen-filled dome. Is this cartoon really advocating cross-species dating?

Bohl maintained that the cartoon is innocent. "I'll admit, some things are a little weird... but it's just a cartoon about a yellow sponge who, you know, lives in a pineapple, under the sea," he said.

Shaker Heights Teachers' Association

SHTA

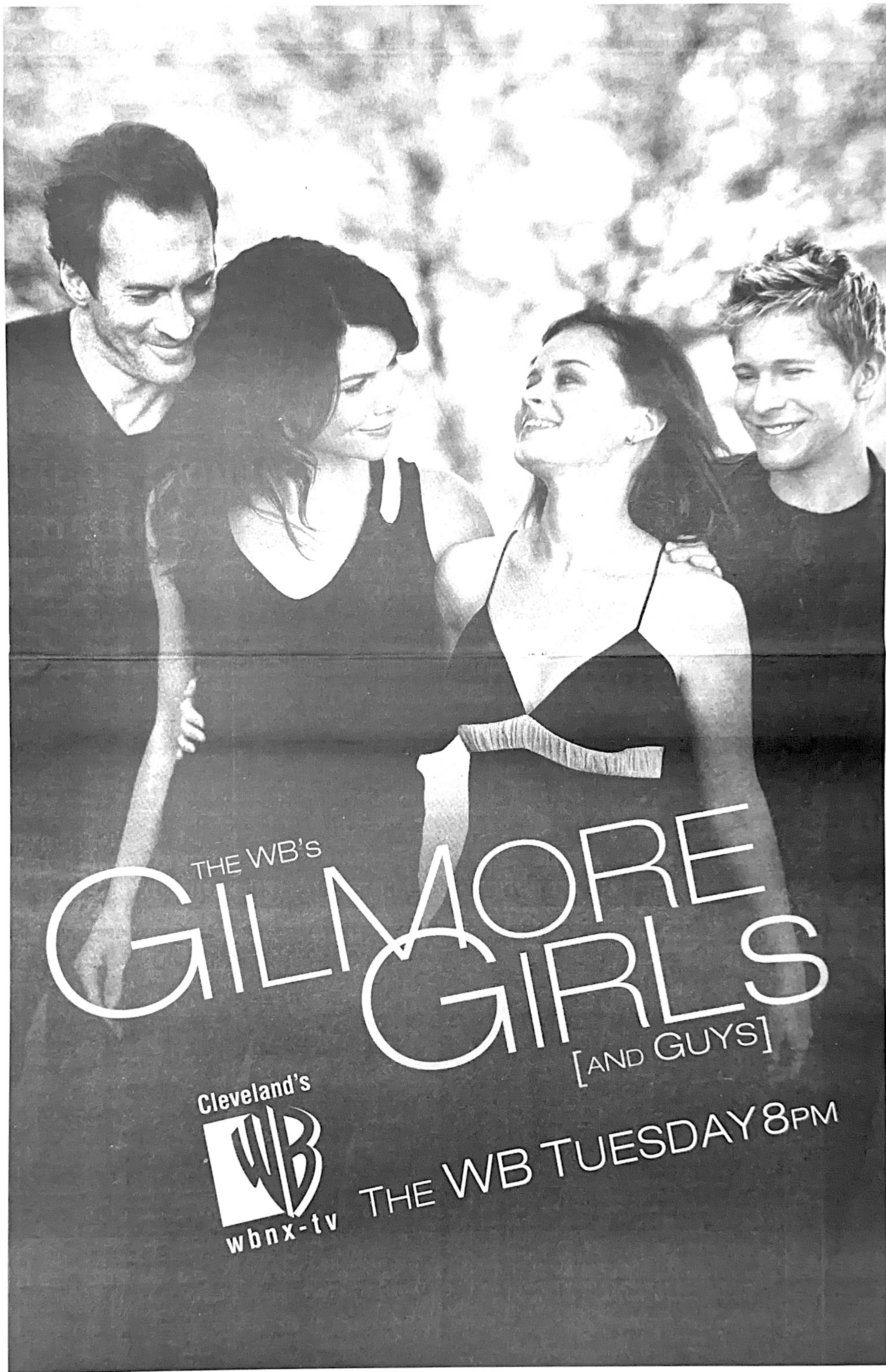
Professionals
Educating

Dedicated To
Shaker's Youth

The Shakerite

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THE WB'S
**GILMORE
GIRLS**
[AND GUYS]



THE WB TUESDAY 8PM

SHAKER CHOICE AWARDS 2004

MOVIES

Best Movie

Winner: Ray

Nominees:
Napoleon Dynamite
Spiderman 2
The Passion of the Christ

Worst Actor

Winner: Ben Affleck

Nominees:
Anthony Anderson
Cedric
Matt Damon

Worst Movie

Winner: Scooby Doo 2

Nominees:
Soul Plane
The Perfect Score
I, Robot

Worst Actress

Winner: Hilary Duff

Nominees:
Alexa Vega
Liv Tyler
Jennifer Love Hewitt

Best Actor

Winner: Denzel Washington

Nominees:
Jamie Foxx
Brad Pitt
Johnny Depp

Best Actress

Winner: Julia Roberts

Nominees:
Scarlett Johansson
Kate Winslet
Sharen Warren

TELEVISION

Worst Reality Show

Winner: Who's Your Daddy

Nominees:
The Swan
Biggest Loser
Wifeswap

Best New TV Show

Winner: Desperate Housewives

Nominees:
Kevin Hill
Lost
Extreme Makeover: Home Edition

Most Annoying Commercial

Winner: Safe Auto

Nominees:
Quizno's
Arby's
Geico

Most Entertaining Commercial

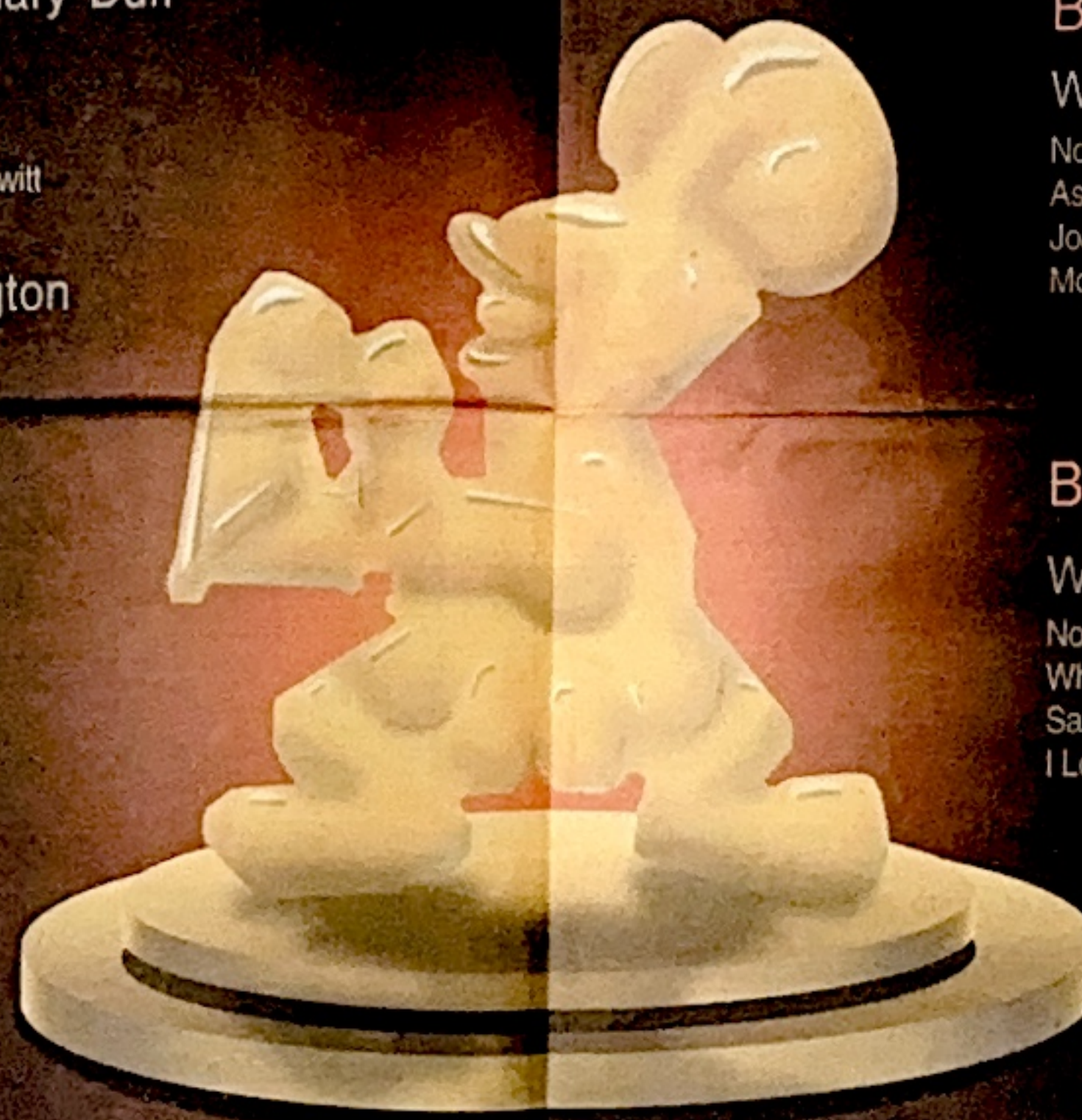
Winner: HP Photos

Nominees:
The Gap
Old Navy
Target

2004

It was the year of Usher. Yeah. Thanks to Janet Jackson, women's liberation has taken on a whole new meaning. Britney Spears has taught us that hard work, level-headedness and dedication produce a long-lasting... 55-hour marriage. After giving a fond farewell to the single life on "Sex In The City," it has now become acceptable for "Housewives" to be utterly desperate. Reality TV pours its efforts into finding lost fathers and discovering "inner-beauty." Thanks to Ashlee Simpson, karaoke singers everywhere have the new hope of a musical career. Snoop Dogg dropped it like it's hot. And "Tigers" are the new favorite jungle animal.

The past year in entertainment has surely brought progress and advancement to our generation. Props to '04.



MUSIC

Best Slow Song

Winner: My Boo

Nominees:
Confessions Pt. II
Breakaway
Take My Breath Away

Best Party Song

Winner: Yeah

Nominees:
1, 2 Step
Let's Get It Started
Lose My Breath

Best New Artist

Winner: Kanye West

Nominees:
Ashlee Simpson
JoJo
Modest Mouse

Worst New Artist

Winner: Hilary Duff

Nominees:
William Hung
Raven
Evanescence

Best Country Song

Winner: Redneck Woman

Nominees:
What Happens in Mexico
Save a Horse, Ride a Cowboy
I Love This Bar

Best Rap/Hip-Hop Artist

Winner: Snoop Dogg

Nominees:
Outkast
Ciara
Black Eyed Peas

Best Female Artist

Winner: Beyonce

Nominees:
Alicia Keys
Jessica Simpson
Kelly Clarkson

Best Male Artist

Winner: Usher

Nominees:
Toby Keith
Ruben Studdard
Ryan Cabrera

Best Rock/Pop Group

Winner: Maroon 5

Nominees:
Green Day
Switchfoot
The Calling

Best Comeback Group

Winner: Destiny's Child

Nominees:
New Edition
Hanson
The Beastie BoysArt by Thomas Dunne and Maria Laportas
Coloring by Albi Janssen

Most Overplayed Song

Winner: Yeah-Usher

Nominees:
Topsy- J-Kwon
Turn Me On- Kevin Lytle
Goodies- Ciara

Do we still get extra credit?

You've worked hard all semester to earn your A. Leave Shaker, though, and you may soon find no amount of hard work will earn that mark. The Associated Press reports that Princeton has adopted a new policy to combat grade inflation, a move that drew protest from stu-

dents. Now, no Princeton academic department may assign A's to more than 35 percent of its students. Other highly selective schools are expected to follow suit. The In previous years, approximately half of all grades in Princeton classes were A's.



OPINION

<<< The pressure is on

Seniority a step too far

What happens when the oldest members of a group enjoy perks for no apparent reason? Everyone else feels confused and angry. And this happens every time seniority gets out of control at Shaker.

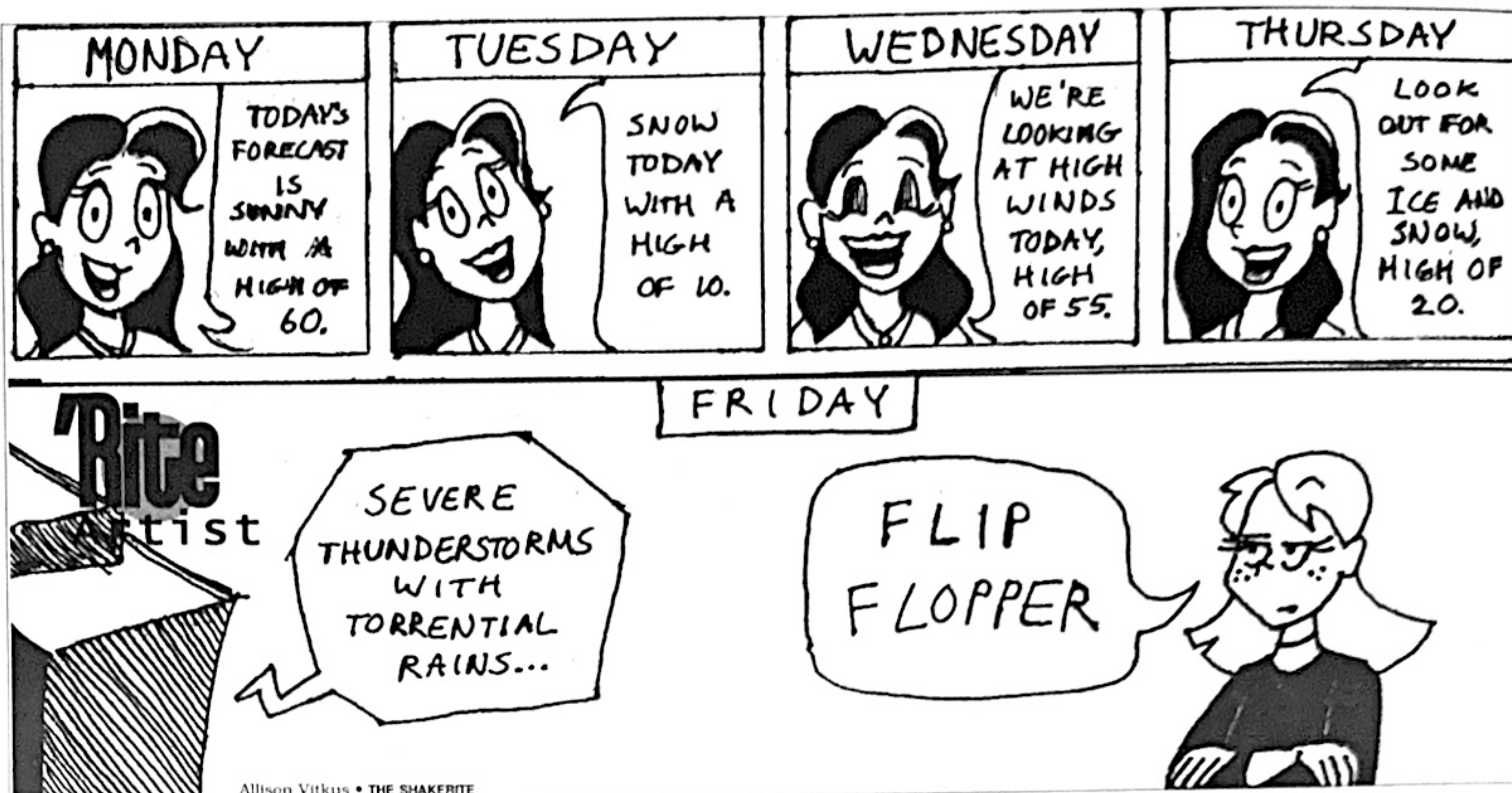
Shaker is one of the many high schools where seniority plays a governing role. By the time students reach senior year, they want to cash in on their long-awaited perks. Shaker students undoubtedly enjoy benefits that underclassmen envy: senior project, the lounge and the loosely established senior cut day. And frankly, as a senior, I enjoy these perks and expect to indulge in them throughout the year. After three years of hard work, I, too, relish the thought of relaxing in the senior lounge with fellow classmates or not going to school for a month at the end of the year. A long-awaited opportunity is senior project; this month-long chance to learn away from school is the only force that coerces many seniors to focus during second semester. However, project, too, comes with conditions. It is our responsibility to attend class and pass, or we'll be stuck taking finals with everyone else. While these privileges exist without trouble, other senior perks seem to undermine school unity. Problems arise when perks are awarded without any accompanying obligations—when they stop being privileges and morph into entitlements. When seniors expect perks without taking on any added responsibility, we develop a false sense of entitlement and exacerbate class divisions.

Obligation-free perks such as dominance of sections at hockey games reward seniors for their accident of birth, not for exhibiting leadership or responsibility. And when this happens, it is only natural for seniors to become power-crazed and for underclassmen to question them. When fights erupt at hockey games because one kid wasn't born in 1987 and therefore has no right to a seat, it is clear that seniors' sense of entitlement has kicked into full gear. I have no problem with a senior section where seniors can find a good seat at the last minute. But in turn we should be the ones behaving maturely—not starting offensive chants or booing underclassmen from our own school. Frankly, it's frustrating to hear a fellow senior complain about not getting a hockey ticket after waiting until the last minute, or being surprised when an underclassman doesn't want to give his seat to a senior. We expect these entitlements, but we do nothing to earn them.

Everyone looks forward to senior year: the one year of high school when you can truly enjoy yourself. So seniors, it's time that we fully embrace the position of role models to the school. If we show administrators and faculty that we deserve these privileges instead of simply expecting them, we may enjoy even greater perks. We will find ourselves a more privileged class leading students to a happier and more unified school.



MARGUERITE MOORE
EDITOR IN CHIEF



Allison Vitkus • THE SHAKERITE

Senior overreaction reinforces instead of refutes column

Death threats, rape threats and even a threat of crucifixion—all fueled by one newspaper column. It sounds like a scene straight from "Boston Public." Instead, Shaker must claim such shameful behavior.



The Dec. 16 issue of The Shakerite featured a column by junior Kate Guess that criticized hockey spectators for their inappropriate cheers and behavior. Though the column was addressed to all spectators, special mention was made of the senior class. This struck a chord with the class of 2005, and on the final days before winter break, some seniors lashed out against the columnist by threatening her with physical harm.

When a writer's column goes so far as to cause outrage and prompt threats from the readership, it becomes more important to look at the readers than at the content of the column. While we will neither support nor disagree with the views stated in the column, we agree that the behaviors described in the column embarrass our school. The disclaimer in

the staff box of The Shakerite states, "opinions expressed in The Shakerite are those of their respective authors." Guess' column voiced her opinion—she has the right to state her observations. While the entire senior class is not to blame, the general response was inappropriate and unnecessary.

By overreacting to Guess' criticism, certain seniors only proved her point. They exhibited the very "uncouth" and "repulsive" behavior she wrote about. It is sadly ironic that any senior in this school would attempt to disprove a charge by engaging in the very behavior that prompted it. If the objecting seniors had wanted to really show that Guess was wrong, they should have chosen more civil ways to go about it. As an open-forum newspaper, we pride ourselves in encouraging and readily accepting letters to the editor. By simply taking time to write out their feelings and submitting them, those outraged seniors could have started a constructive and safe debate. Instead, they chose to blow it out of proportion and threaten a student's life.

To quote from the original column, "This is embarrassing."

Reality



A psychological analysis of our beloved and somewhat disturbed childhood icons

Character	The Problem	Likely Reason
Fred Flintstone, "The Flintstones"	Quickly angered, exhibits severe aggression toward his spouse	Probably raised with little regard toward females, likely that the female figure in his childhood was very subservient.
Bugs Bunny, "The Looney Toons"	Overly confident, conceited, takes joy in others' pain	Possibly raised to be very competitive—always searching for a new victory to prove his worth.
Velma, "Scooby Doo"	Obsessive with her studying, an ostentatious know-it-all	Signs of a social phobia are present; she takes refuge in her studies to avoid contact with the world.
Donald Duck, "Duck Tales"	Easily frustrated, vengeful, hot tempered	Questions his ability to succeed, resents that he is never the center of attention.
Bashful, "Snow White"	Painfully shy, very low self-confidence	Probably not encouraged by his parents as a child, may have lacked a strong parental figure.
Winnie the Pooh	Addicted to honey, possibly suffers from binge eating	Uses food as an escape from a likely insecurity about his appearance.
Steve, "Blue's Clues"	Carries on conversations with inanimate objects, constantly trying to figure out what his pet dog wants through an intricate series of clues he makes up	Lonely, unable to connect with people, likely suffers from a severe case of schizophrenia.
Oscar the Grouch, "Sesame Street"	A constant negative, sarcastic disposition; enjoys bringing others down to his level, his victims tending to be the weak of mind and the innocent; gains their trust and then feeds them his lies	Likely abused by someone he trusted—gains pleasure from others' trust but unable to utilize it appropriately.
Miss Piggy, "The Muppets"	Quick tempered, vain, aggressive toward members of the opposite sex	Very likely abused as a child by a male figure close to her, uses vanity to veil her low self-confidence.
Spongebob	Hyperactive, extremely irritating to his peers; his voice is particularly annoying, yet he is apparently unaware	Possibly suffers from substance abuse, likely caffeine, also a probable pituitary gland problem.

Compiled by Laura Habat

One crazy blunder with eight crazy nights

LEAH HITCHENS
PULSE EDITOR

Cartoons have been corrupted. Yes, the genre formerly known as "kids' movies," a safe haven of moral goodness and likeable characters has been forever deflowered in my mind.

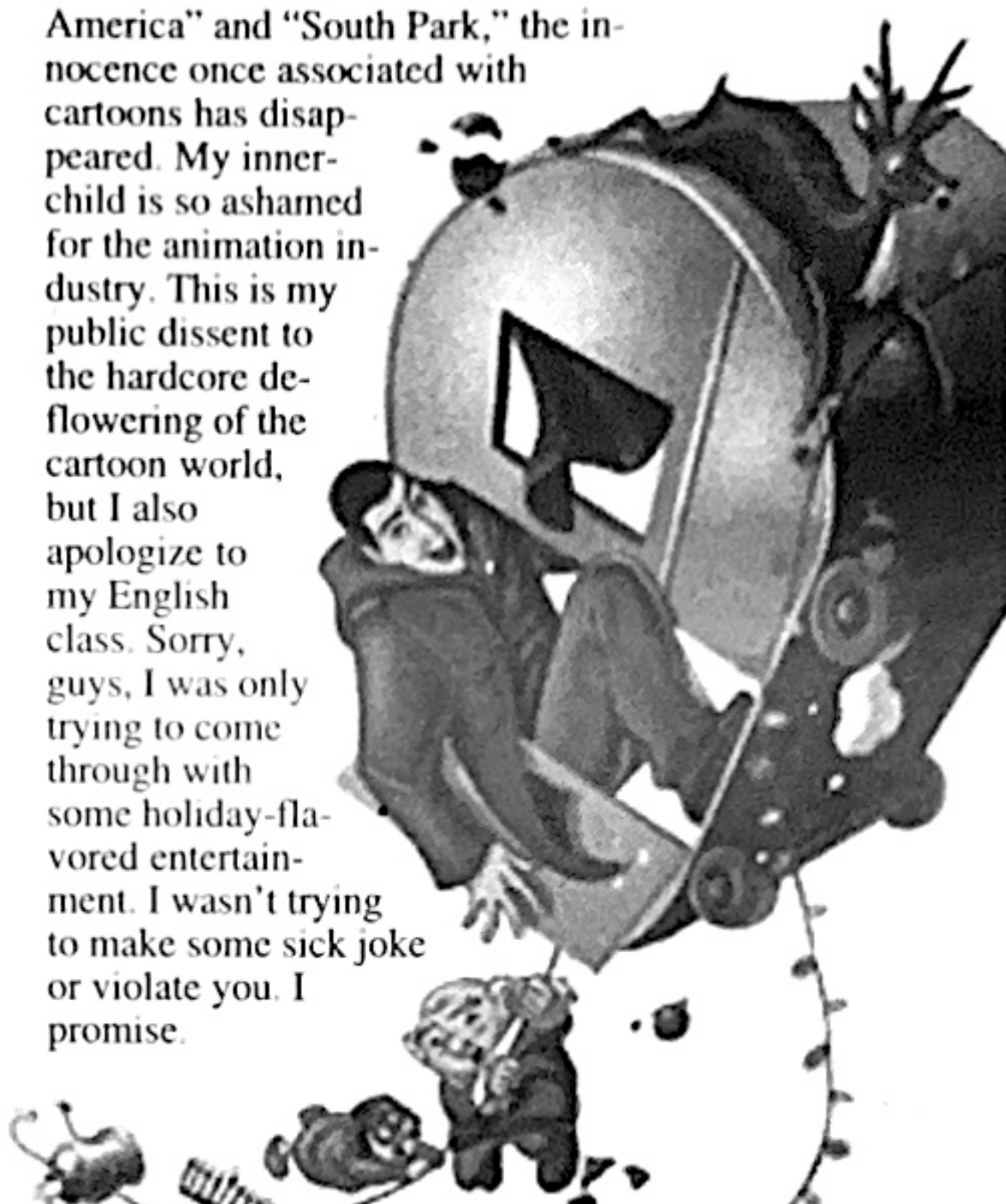
I had volunteered to bring "A Christmas Story" to my English class to watch on the Friday before winter break, but because we were painting at my house, I couldn't find the movie anywhere. Well, Friday came around and, being bound by my previous commitment, I hit a crunch time during sixth period when I had to run over to Blockbuster to find another holiday movie. I frantically plowed through the stacks of pre-viewed movies looking for something with Christmas lights, snow, anything! Then I saw "Eight Crazy Nights" resting inconspicuously at the bottom of the bin. "Oh, cool," I thought to myself, "It's a cartoon! Hopefully it's not too childish..." Childish, however,

was the least of my worries. Within the first 10 minutes of the movie, there were exposed butts, lewd sexual references and Adam Sandler gave the finger on three different occasions. I was mortified. Here are these Playskool-looking cartoons spewing crude humor about a woman's breasts. Eventually, after getting over the humiliation, the question came up in my mind: who corrupted cartoons? The Man? Can we leave nothing to be innocently enjoyed by kids?

I used to think that all animated movies were made for kids and therefore couldn't be bad. Not anymore. If, for example, a parent lived by that rule today, and took her child to see "Eight Crazy Nights," I shudder to think of all the explanations and excuses that would follow. "No, Mark, you can't pull your pants down in a public place."

Since "The Simpsons" debuted 13 years ago, the cartoon world has become increasingly more corrupt, and with movies such as "Team

America" and "South Park," the innocence once associated with cartoons has disappeared. My inner-child is so ashamed for the animation industry. This is my public dissent to the hardcore deflowering of the cartoon world, but I also apologize to my English class. Sorry, guys, I was only trying to come through with some holiday-flavored entertainment. I wasn't trying to make some sick joke or violate you. I promise.



Baby got back, but she doesn't need to hear about it

We've all heard it. Usually, it starts with an "Mmmm, girl..." and ends with an "I wanna get me some of that."

And I'm not talking about a half-off sale on Godiva chocolates.

Most recently, I heard similar musings in downtown Cleveland when two men verbally accosted me as I strolled from my car to a building several hundred yards away. The men asked me to shake some things that I can assure you weren't a pair of maracas that I just happened to be holding in my hands.



AVIVA ARIEL
OPINION EDITOR

A month ago, at a party, an older man (who bears an unnerving resemblance to my Spanish teacher) made inappropriate comments to me (including the revelation that he was Chandler from "Friends" and then asked me if I needed a "friend" for the night.)

My best friend (who we all agree has sufficient junk in her trunk) is whistled or winked at almost every time we leave the house. From Beachwood Place to Tower City, any shopping trip turns into a hide and seek game with the group of boys who chose to follow us around the mall. And needless to say, "walk past me again, sexy," isn't a very convincing pickup line.

It's as if girls are wearing invisible "comment on me" signs that only guys can see, and although at times it may seem flattering that a group of teenage boys would roll down their car windows while driving down Richmond Road to hoot and holler at you about "looking fine," it ultimately makes me cringe. Sometimes the mere thought of walking alone through the hallways, when all I want to do is get to class without causing trouble, makes me feel like I am walking down a runway as a contestant for the next Miss Teen Shaker 2005.

Never in my life have I asked a stranger to comment on how my butt (or any other body part for that matter) looks in my favorite pair of jeans. It makes my teenage feminist red alert button flash like Rudolph's nose on Christmas to think that I am constantly on display like a sculpture at an art gallery or even just a meager piece of chocolate cake on a bakery shelf, living my life behind glass, being judged by passersby.

And sometimes I struggle to figure out if maybe because I don't have a second period class, I missed the announcement that it's OK to critique girls like you're a judge on "American Idol."

These men, whether on street corners or Shaker's main hall, feel they have the right to crudely voice their opinions.

It's like, come on boys, we all know your hormones are raging like white water rapids in Colorado, but keep your mouths closed and your thoughts in check.

Most girls have a hard enough time surviving high school in spite of the critical analysis of our bodies we do in the comfort of our own bedrooms—we don't need our male counterparts to comment, too.

So, please, even you find Sir Mix-A-Lot utterly inspiring, I beg you to allow us to live our lives blissfully un-critiqued.

Shaker speaks:

From classrooms to hockey rinks, students react to last month's columns

Rankings remain reasonable in AP classes' atmosphere

Letter to the editor

To the Editor:

As a former AP Modern Euro student, I see class ranks on grade sheets from a very different perspective ["To rank or not to rank" Dec. 16, 2004]. In an AP class at Shaker, ranking really shouldn't raise concern. Taking an AP course indicates a certain level of maturity; you're signing up for a college-level class, which suggests you are willing to handle higher expectations. These include putting forth more time and effort, as well as handling some competitiveness inherent in a high-level course. As I've observed from every class at Shaker, from CP to AP, some students will always compare their grades. Putting a rank on your grade sheet won't add to these comparisons.

In my Modern Euro class, yes, there were students who compared grades. At the same time, there were students who were able to keep their scores secret. Ranking

provides a private way for students to gauge their performance. Unless you choose to share your rank with others, your grades are your own business. It can be reassuring to see that the rest of the class didn't do very well on the quiz that was difficult for you; perhaps you should have studied a little harder for that last test, because others seemed to do well. Modern Euro was a difficult course and most students were more concerned with improving or maintaining their own grades rather than with comparing themselves with classmates.

I also disagree with the unfair judgments made about the teacher's position. I do not see his explanation as unconvincing, but rather as honest. He teaches an AP class, consisting almost entirely of juniors (and may I remind you, previously of sophomores), whom he considers mature enough to see a ranking next to their scores. It

shouldn't be his responsibility to spend time tinkering with his grading program to remove numbers that are ultimately meaningless. I also am disappointed that the author of this article would choose to write in such a disrespectful manner regarding this teacher. It's unfair to imply that he is lazy, unreasonable or deserving of the insults thrown at him.

Loosely quoted throughout the article in question, Gandhi also once said, "All your scholarship would be in vain if at the same time you do not build your character and attain mastery over your thoughts and your actions."

All students should take that idea into consideration—instead of worrying about a number that compares us to our classmates, let's focus on achieving at a level that we can be satisfied with.

In that case, any rank won't matter.

Becca Heide, senior

“Putting a rank on your grade sheet won't add to... comparisons.”

Senior suggests five minute penalty for underclassmen's lack of respect

To the Editor:

In response to the comments made about the senior class in the December edition of The Shakerite ["Your 'clever' hockey cheers embarrass us," Dec. 16, 2004]: there was absolutely no reason to blast the 2005 class for traditions. In addition, there is absolutely no excuse for placing the blame of offensive cheers upon the senior class. Everyone who chanted along is guilty of perpetuating filth, regardless of whether they are seniors, sophomores, freshmen or,

yes, even juniors.

For those of you who continue to complain about the reign of the senior class year after year, listen up: Life isn't fair. Whether or not you like it, there is a pecking order at the high school. The senior class has worked hard for three and a half years and has the right to enjoy some of the privileges that come along with seniority. Sitting in the front rows, also known as the "senior section," at the hockey games is one of these privileges. At this school, the "first come, first serve" policy just doesn't apply in the hockey stands. The seniors want every grade at the games, just not in our section. Furthermore, the senior class has supplied

over half of the hockey team's players. We reserve the right to watch our friends and classmates play the game. I am sick of the lack of respect for senior tradition. I am also extremely surprised that the underclassmen and junior class continue to disregard these traditions. For those of you who think that at the ripe old age of 15 or 16 that you can run the school, you are sorely mistaken. Take warning: by trying to prove that you don't have to listen to the seniors and can do what you want, you are ruining the senior traditions for yourself as well.

The so-called "05 Masters of the Cheer" are really not the originators of the offensive cheers. I agree that these cheers are quite offensive, but when the US stands are screaming, "Make our lunches" and "Shaker Swallows," our first response is to retaliate on behalf of the school that most of us have so much pride in. I actually thought that this year's US game was under control (compared to past games) and that some of the seniors even prohibited the start of offensive cheers. But when did it become the class of '05's job to make new cheers? To those of you who believe it is our job, think of some witty cheer yourself. And stop complaining about our cheers and hockey game conduct without offering any solutions to the problem. Or, here's a better idea for those of you who are forever complaining: Don't come to the game at all.

Sarah Gutin, senior

Letter to the editor

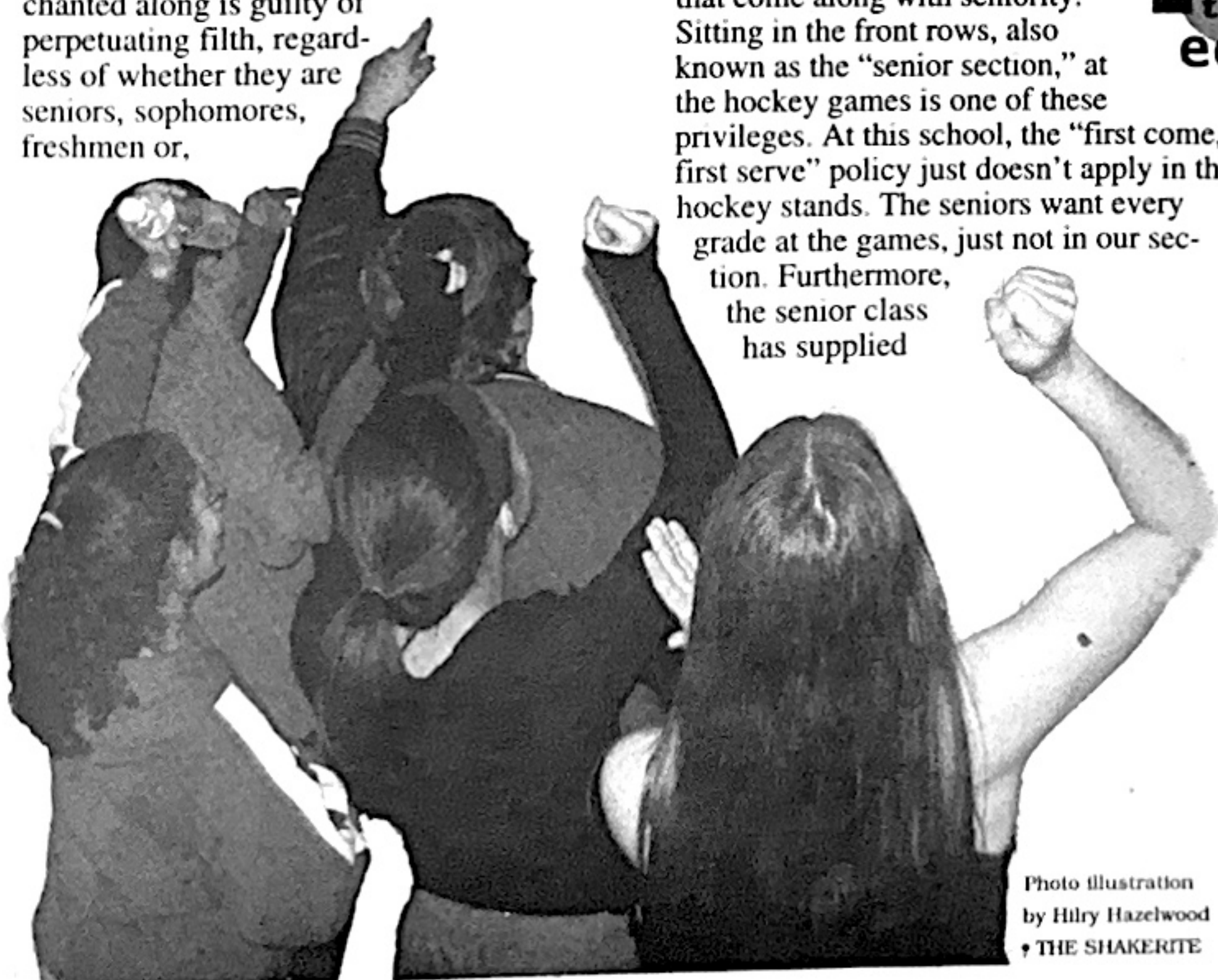


Photo illustration by Hilry Hazelwood
THE SHAKERITE



Sports

WORTHLESS STUBS

After a dismal 4-12 season, however, Browns season-ticket holders were left with worthless playoff ticket stubs to keep as souvenirs. Students, although disappointed, are optimistic for next season. Junior Anson Hall said, "They've retrogressed since they made the playoffs. I'm looking forward to next year with a new coach."

02.04.05

the NUMBERS

The Shakerite checks in on winter sports

MEN'S BASKETBALL

The men's varsity basketball team is currently 5-8, and 2-3 in the LEL. The team has shown improvement over the course of the season and was able to upset Cleveland Heights. According to Head Coach Bob Wonson, the Raiders are still young and inexperienced. Only three players had varsity experience entering this season. Wonson said, "...we're improving, but we still need more size and shooting ability." With 10 players returning next year, Wonson is optimistic about the future.

WOMEN'S BASKETBALL

Over the course of the season the women's varsity basketball team has gained both confidence and experience. "We have improved overall and on defense," head coach Don Readance said. He attributes the team's mediocre record of 6-9 to their tough schedule. The Raiders look forward to avenging their overtime loss to rival Cleveland Heights at their sectional playoff game.

WRESTLING

The wrestling team placed third and fourth in its first two invitationals, respectively. Head coach Marc Enie said that those statistics don't necessarily reflect how the season will end. The final meet of the season is scheduled for Sat., Feb. 5 and the road to the state tournament begins with sectional matches Fri., Feb. 11.

MEN'S SWIMMING

With a 6-2 record, Shaker has enjoyed a successful season thus far. Coach Eric Peterson is happy with both the men's and women's teams' success at this point. The highlight of the men's season was their second place finish at the Orange Invitational. Peterson is looking forward to the Lake Erie League Championships.

WOMEN'S SWIMMING

The team is currently 5-3. Following a loss in the dual meet with Mentor, the Raiders hope to defeat them at the LEL Championship. The team also lost to rival Solon but is optimistic for the league championship.

HOCKEY

Included in the hockey team's 17-6 record are defeats of University School and Solon. The Raiders have been ranked No. 1 in The Plain Dealer's high school hockey poll. Junior David Goldsmith, a varsity forward, is satisfied with the team's performance. "We are playing very well. Our record is showing it," Goldsmith said. "We're hitting a few bumps, but we're bouncing back with wins."

Compiled by Emily Grannis, Wesley Lowery and Bobby O'Connor
Photos by Dan Snider • THE SHAKERITE

Senior flyweight packs a punch

• Jessica Fain's focus, motivation leads to near-perfect boxing record

By MEAGAN STEINER
SPORTS EDITOR

When boxer Jessica Fain sparred for the first time three years ago, with a boy, her mother, Sandra Fain, was worried.

So worried that from the corner of the ring, she promised to step in and defend her daughter if the boy hurt Jessica, then a 5'2", 110-lb. sophomore.

Fortunately for all concerned, Jessica not only held her own but knocked down her opponent.

"It was my first time in the ring and I was just doing what I was taught to do and it worked out. It was a rush," said Jessica, now a senior.

This rare accomplishment for a beginner caught the attention of Dante Turnir, who has been coaching Jessica for three years.

Her parents didn't want her to box for fear she would get hurt. But after she took matters into her own hands and discovered the Cleveland Boxing Academy, her father gave in.

In amateur boxing, matches that don't end in knockouts are won by the fighter who accumulates the most points by landing hits with the white glove tops. Each fighter can win up to 10 points in each three-minute round and loses two points if knocked down.

Fain has lost only one fight, by judge's decision, and she won the 2004 Ringside National Championship in Kansas City in the flyweight, or 110-lb., weight class. Her division and 16-18-year-old age group usually feature 50-70 girls and boys.

Jessica trains Monday through Friday.

Training includes doing calisthenics, shadow boxing, jumping rope, hitting the 65-75 lb. heavy bag for power, hitting the speed bag for hand speed, practicing footwork and sparring with everyone but the heavyweights.

"[Training] takes determination. It takes willpower. It takes a strong mind," she said.

Jessica's mother credits boxing for further empowering her daughter. "I can see she's a stronger individual... she doesn't need to rely on anyone but herself," she said.

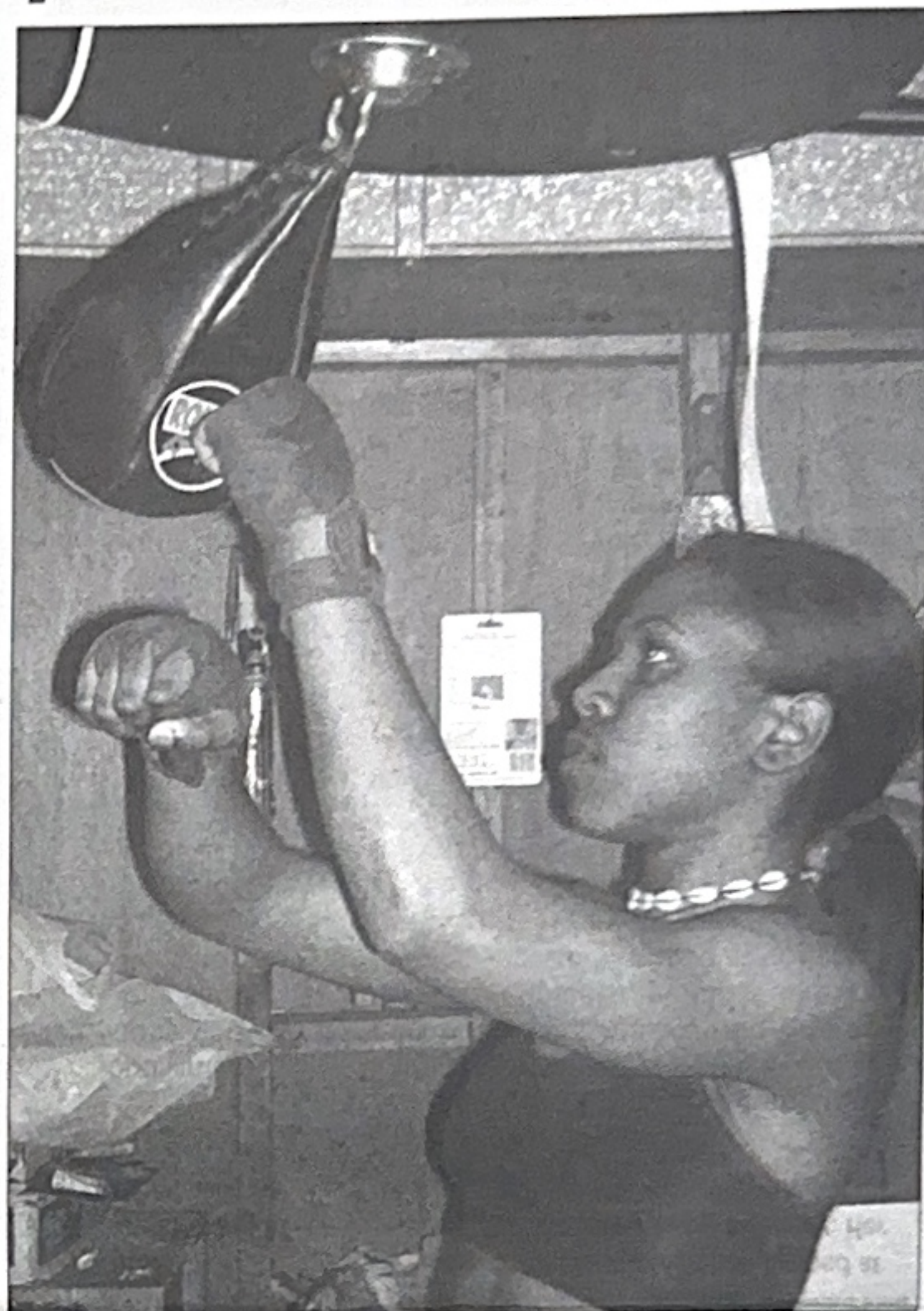
Jessica competes year-round, once a month at most. "But that's pushing it. You need proper time to prepare and train," she said.

Between weighing-in, wrapping hands to protect knuckles, and throwing punches against the coach's target mitts to keep muscles loose before the fight, Jessica said that tension is inevitable but that a boxer needs to relax to beat someone at the same skill level.

Turnir described the feeling upon entering the ring as, "a feeling of fear along with pride. A feeling that it's a one-on-one sport... if you can make it through the whole fight, then you've proven yourself."

While Jessica considers her greatest strength to be her left hook, Turnir said it is her sheer motivation.

"She's in one of the hardest weight classes. The boxers are quicker, more agile, so you gotta know what you're doing every time you get out there. Somebody could get



SENIOR JESSICA FAIN works with a speed bag to improve hand speed at the Cleveland Boxing Academy Jan. 12. Jessica trains every weekday. Her intense training won her the 2004 Ringside National Championship.

hurt. But she always seems to come out on top," Turnir said.

Jessica considers music, like boxing, a helpful outlet. A pianist, guitarist and vocalist, Fain plans to study music in college but continue boxing to stay in shape.

She said that boxing helps people control other aspects of their lives.

"It's a very healthy sport. It's a way for some people to stay out of trouble. It's a way for people to keep their head focused and stay away from things in our society that bring people down," she said.

High school tradition or Shaker High originality?

By DAVID O'CONNELL
SPORTS EDITOR

Shaker's original fight song has long since been replaced by "The Navy Blue and Gold." Although we have our own fight song, why don't we hear it on Saturday afternoons?

"To fame we bring the red and white. Let us cheer, loud and clear, for Shaker High!" Sound familiar? Probably not. But 70 years ago those words were poised to be part of Shaker's fight song.

Frank Stafford ('35) created "The Shaker High March," Shaker's original fight song in 1935, though there is no indication it was ever adopted as the official fight song.

The score was written for the piano and includes lyrics with a vocal trio. The U.S. Naval Academy's "The Navy Blue and Gold" is played instead of Stafford's score as Shaker's fight song. Although "The Shaker High March" is an original score from Shaker, it's unlikely the Navy march will be replaced.

"Our fans know 'The Navy Blue and Gold' as our fight song," said music and instrumental teacher Tom Deep. "There would be an uproar [if it were replaced]. It's become a tradition."

Changing Shaker's fight song wouldn't be favorable, Deep said, but

the "Shaker March" might be added to the band's playlist. The music would have to be arranged for marching band.

"It may take some time to arrange the march for the band. We may try it at a future ice cream social to see their reaction to the song. If people like it, we'll add it to the marching band repertoire," he said.

High schools traditionally don't have original fight songs for their own schools; Shaker is distinctive for having its own score, according to Deep.

"It's very common to pick a university or military fight song as a school's march," he said.

"The Navy Blue and Gold" is the Naval Academy's alma mater played double time by the marching band," said Bob Olson, who graduated from Shaker in 1953 and is a member of Shaker's alumni band.

Charles Inniss, senior field commander, appreciates the past and present accomplishments of the marching band tradition at Shaker.

"It's fantastic that Shaker marching band goes back to 1935," Inniss said. "We're part of and making a rich history."

We're part of and making a rich history.

Charles Inniss
Senior field commander

THE SHAKER HIGH March, created in 1935, includes music for the piano and lyrics for a vocal trio. The song may have been sang at basketball games according to band director Tom Deep.